

GEOG 2460: Introduction to Urban Development
Course Outline Section 001: Winter 2020**1. Course Information**

1.1. Classroom Location:

Lecture: Thursdays 10:30 – 12:20, SSC 2032

Tutorial: Thursdays 11:30 - 1:20pm, SSC 2032

1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Godwin Arku

Office: SSC 2427

Office Hours: Thursdays 2:30-4:00pm or by appointment

Email: within OWL

Teaching Assistant: Marcello Vecchio

Office: SSC 2436

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:00PM

Email: mvecchi@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: Duncan Spilsbury

Office: SSC2436

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00 – 1:00PM

Email: dspilsbu@uwo.ca**2. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Urban areas vary in their form, structure, morphology, land use patterns, and historical processes of evolution. But they are also driven by a series of interrelated processes of change – including economic, political, cultural, demographic, technological, environmental, social, and locally – contingent forces. These forces operate at a variety of geographical scales ranging from the global to the local. The goal of this course is to understand the processes and the character of urban areas. In doing so, students will explore to: 1) what urban means, and how it has different meanings in different urban contexts; 2) the history of urbanization and the factors that gave rise to early cities; 3) the history of urban growth, and the key models and theories that exist to explain this growth; 4) the various distinct structures and forms of urban areas; 5) urban development processes and the social and political-economic forces driving these processes; 6) the key government, public, and private stakeholders of urban development; 7) government policies and urban management strategies; and 8) contemporary issues present in our cities today. The course will be delivered in various formats: formal lectures, in-class and tutorial discussions, guest speakers, and videos. By the end of the course students should be able to apply various constructs to real world urban issues.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By completing the activities associated with the course, you will be able to:

1. Define what ‘urban’ means and catalog key historical urban processes and changes.
2. Identify fundamental concepts and theories of urban development, distinguish how and why these concepts explain historic urban change, and recognize how these concepts help us understand contemporary urban development.
3. Compare and contrast the characteristics, development patterns, and spatial relationships of urban areas from various geographical and historical contexts.
4. Have a clear knowledge of urban processes and the forces (e.g. geographical, economic, social) that influence urban development and apply them in contemporary contexts.
5. Have a good knowledge on urbanization trends and associated problems
6. Assess the economic feasibility of urban development projects by designing a project, determining associated costs and revenues, and building and running a return on investment (ROI) model.
7. Apply urban development concepts, skills and understanding to real-world problems by selecting and investigating an urban development issue, conducting background research, evaluating arguments, and synthesizing findings.
8. Develop and enhance critical thinking skills, independent research, teamwork, and communication skills.

By the end of this course, you should be able to better identify and critique issues surrounding urban development from a geographical perspective, understand the role that people, history, and political economic forces play in how cities grow, change, and operate. By investigating and explaining the role that these people and processes play, you will gain an appreciation for the breadth and complexity of urban geography, and have both exercised and improved your presentation and critical thinking skills.

ON STUDENT LEARNING

My approach to teaching is one of mutual respect and involvement. My pledge to students in this class is to deliver well-prepared lectures each week, with interesting content from a variety of media (such as video clips); and to provide you clear, unambiguous, and fair course expectations and be available for issues you for which you require help (via office hours and e-mail). As much as possible, I would like the course to be interesting and relevant to you. Periodically throughout the semester I will be asking you for feedback and suggestions on topics or issues that you would like to see covered and on ways lecture material is presented. Please take those opportunities to let me know what is going well and things that you would like to see happen. I may not be able to implement every suggestion, but if we work together we can create the best learning environment.

In return, you are required to prepare for each class and seminar by reading and synthesizing each assigned reading before class, thinking of specific and ‘big-picture’ questions you need clarification on or want to discuss further. Attendance of lectures is important to your success, as we meet in real time and in real space. It is important that you physically attend the class to listen, take notes and hopefully share your thoughts during the actual lectures. If you miss a

lecture, please arrange with a fellow classmate (or through the OWL message boards) to share their notes. If you miss something or are confused about anything during a lecture, please raise your hand and seek clarification. I'm here for you and I want to help you to find success in this course.

Throughout the course, students are expected to display a deep sense of respect for the shared learning environment. Among other things this requires that all students show respect for fellow students, TAs, guest speakers and the instructor. Please exit and re-enter the room quietly if you need to make a phone call or use the washroom, enter the room quietly and quickly find a seat if you are late, make an effort to participate during lectures, introduce yourself to some of your classmates, and be willing to participate in small-group discussions. If you must talk to a colleague while lectures are in session, please do not distract the instructor or other students.

If you make use of a laptop during the lecture period, I encourage you to Google concepts and cities to enhance your learning experience. I have found this method can help spark discussion questions and make the experience more enjoyable overall. I've also found that I pay better attention if I am doing that as opposed to just checking my Facebook.

COURSE WEB PAGE (OWL)

During the term, the course website on OWL will be an invaluable resource. Please check it regularly for announcements on important class information, such as changes to the schedule or reminders of upcoming due dates and guest speakers. In addition, information pertaining to lecture, examination, assignments and other course-related matters will be posted on the course website. Please note that copies of my lecture notes will appear on the website on the evening prior to lecture. Please remember that these are meant to serve as templates, and are no substitute for attendance, well-taken notes, and active participation in class discussions.

I also strongly encourage the class to use the message board on OWL to connect and collaborate with your fellow students. These message boards are a good spot to ask questions about the course material, catch up with slides and lectures that were missed, as well as discussing the topics and issues covered in the course. Please remember to keep all comments and discussion respectful.

3. COURSE PREREQUISITES

3.1 Prerequisite(s): 1.0 course from Geography 1100, Geography 1300A/B, Geography 1400F/G, Geography 1500F/G, Geography 2131A/B, Geography 2132A/B, Geography 2133A/B, Geography 2142A/B, Geography 2152F/G, Geography 2153A/B, Environmental Science 1021F/G, or Economics 1021A/B or Economics 1022A/B, or enrolment in any of the Global Development Studies or Globalization Studies modules.

3.2 Senate Regulations

Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

4 Course Format

The course will combine formal lectures, practitioner presentations, and class discussions.

5 Course Readings

This course uses a course pack which can be purchased at the bookstore. In addition to this course pack, other relevant readings will be made available on the course's website.

6 Course Evaluation

There is one term project in this course, divided into three components with separate due dates. The course will also have a mid-term and final examination. The breakdown of marks is as follows:

Assessment Method	Value	Date
Selection of Term Project	1%	January 23, 2020 (email the TAs)
Term Project: Part 1	7%	February 6, 2020
Term Project: Part 2	7%	Feb 27, 2020
Term Project: Final	25%	March 19, 2020
Midterm Examination	20%	February 13, 2020
Final Examination	30%	TBA – April 2020
Reflection	5%	Weekly Throughout the Semester
Attendance	5%	During Tutorials and Guest Speakers

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

Mid-Term and Final Examinations

Both the mid-term and final examination will assess the knowledge gained from all lectures and assigned reading materials. The midterm will cover the lecture, guest speaker presentations, and reading material from the first half of the semester, while the exam will cover the second half of the semester. The midterm and exam will be a combination of multiple-choice questions, fill in the blanks, and short answer questions. No electronic devices will be allowed during an examination. Study guides will be distributed prior to the exam to help you focus on specific areas of study.

Term Projects

You have the choice of two projects: a feasibility project and an urban conflict project. Each project has three parts due at different times throughout the semester. Each assignment builds on the previous ones. The two projects offer different avenues to explore urban development issues, as the feasibility project is quantitative, while the conflict study is more qualitative. It is your choice which one you complete, so please pick the project that is more interesting to you or more in-line with your preferred learning style (with the exception of students in the Urban Development Program or those hoping to join, who are required to do the feasibility project).

Feasibility Project

A core skill for students with an interest in urban development is to understand the various costs associated with a development project, and to understand the need to design projects which will have a positive return on investment. While many models exist for determining feasibility, we will begin with a simplified return on investment model which gets at some of the core issues in urban development. The broad purpose of this project is to design a hypothetical development project and procure costs associated with carrying out the actual development.

Your task in this project:

- 1) Design a mixed-use development (that includes office, retailing, and rental residential space) in any metropolitan area in North America.
- 2) Identify the key cost (i.e. land, materials, labour) and revenue (i.e. rent) variables; and research and determine appropriate values for these variables in your project.
- 3) Construct and run the model to determine the feasibility of your project (by calculating return on investment). Additionally, you will identify under what influence rent, land value, construction costs, interest rates, and vacancy rates have on feasibility of your project.

The project has four objectives:

- 1) To introduce you to the key land use decision making process and to the basic variables affecting the nature of development of cities and in a fundamental sense, the evolving geography of the city;
- 2) To expose you to a basic development feasibility analytic model.
- 3) To provide experience in financial/feasibility modeling of development projects.
- 4) To the ability to synthesize findings and clearly present them in a written report.

Urban Conflict Project

By its very nature, urban development often generates conflict as private interests are pitted against the public interest and the rights of individuals are juxtaposed with the community good. Processes such as opening up new areas for development, the replacement of one land use with another, and the emergence of new building projects have often generated conflict in communities. Thus, a crucial concern is the question of different ideas as to how urban space could/should be used. These diverging opinions lie at the heart of urban development conflict. The broad purpose of this research project is to examine the nature of conflict associated with a specific urban development project with which you have some familiarity.

Your task in this project is to:

- 1) Choose and evaluate an urban development project that has generated conflict in the past or is currently generating conflict within a community (preferably one that you are familiar with) – for example, you may look at the issues surrounding the development of a single homeless shelter.
- 2) Investigate the different sides of the conflict, identifying and analyzing the perspectives of individuals and groups both for and against the project;
- 3) Make informed recommendations on how the conflict should have been resolved or be resolved.

This project has four specific learning objectives:

- 1) To introduce you to the key concepts in urban development (e.g. ‘public interest’, ‘external effects’ etc.).
- 2) To expose you to a specific urban development conflict as well as scholarly literature relating to the topic.
- 3) To develop the research skills needed to explore the issues around a real-world problem.
- 4) To provide experience in synthesizing research and academic literature.

Please note: Late assignments will incur a 5% per day penalty. Assignments will not be accepted if handed in more than 7 days after the due date.

Reflection

Twice within the term, you will be asked to complete a brief reflection exercise. This is meant to help you internalize the material we covered over that period, think about lingering questions that you still have, have an opportunity for discussion with fellow students, and to continue the learning process even after lecture has ended. These reflections may take several forms, including: reflecting on a particular concept, topical issue or lingering question(s).

Attendance

Attendance for guest speakers and tutorials will be used to calculate the attendance mark, and will have a strong bearing on success in the class overall. Students are expected to attend all guest speaker presentations and tutorials. The teaching assistants will keep track of attendance at all tutorials and guest lectures through signed attendance sheets. If you do not sign the attendance sheet you will not receive any marks for that week.

Please note: Unless permission is granted, students cannot be absent from guest speaker presentation. Failure to attend will attract a heavy penalty, mostly likely a score of ‘0’ for the class attendance mark. Our guest speakers give up time from their day jobs to be with us, so I expect everyone’s attendance.

7 Course Policy Statements

7.1 Participation is Essential in this Course

Attendance of the lectures and tutorials is not optional. Your participation mark of 5% is based on regular attendance, active contributions in lectures and tutorials, and individual presentation of reading materials and information from local news media. Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials and are strongly encouraged to read relevant articles/chapters before coming to these classes. For each tutorial session, selected students will be tasked to summarize the readings for the day and also lead the discussion of these materials. The teaching assistant will keep track of attendance at all lectures and tutorials.

7.2 Missing Classes

Unless permission is granted students cannot absent themselves from GUEST LECTURES. Failure to attend guest lectures will attract a heavy penalty, mostly likely zero score for class participation mark. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for

Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_f_or_absences.pdf

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

7.3 Late Submissions

One percent point (1%) per weekday (weekends count as one weekday) will be deducted from late assignments. Assignments will not be accepted if handed in more than one week after the due date.

7.4 Emails:

All emails should be sent within OWL. Please **DO NOT** use my regular UWO email address.

7.5 Course Web Page (OWL)

During the term, information pertaining to lectures, assignments and other course-related matters will be posted on the course web page (OWL). Please note that copies of my lecture overheads/ppt presentations will also be posted a day before the lectures. These are for review purposes only. The overheads provide only a very condensed overview of the material covered in class. They do not constitute adequate notes by themselves, and are **no substitute for regular attendance of lectures**.

8 Schedule of Topics

Lecture/ Date		Readings
#1 Jan 9	<u>Lecture</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduction to course- Urban Trends and Dynamics- What does 'urban' mean – putting cities into context- Key urban concepts and definitions- Fundamentals of cities <u>Tutorial</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- No tutorial this week	Filion & Bunting, course pack, pp. 1-14
#2 Jan 16	<u>Lecture</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The origins and growth of cities – a historical overview- Evolution and development of American urban systems – historical and contemporary trends <u>Tutorial</u>	

Lecture/ Date		Readings
	- Detailed information session on term project	
#3 Jan 23	<u>Lecture</u> - Evolution and development of Canadian urban systems – historical and contemporary trends - Urban Transitions in Canada <u>Tutorial</u> - Detailed information Part 1 of the term project	Hillier, course pack, pp. 27-43; 44-67; Filion, course pack, 68-85; Vinodrai, course pack, 86-106
#4 Jan 30	<u>Lecture</u> - Models and Theories of Urban Spatial Structure, including: Sjobergs’s pre-industrial city model; Burgess concentric zone model; Hoyt’s model of urban structure; Harris and Ullman’s multiple nuclei model; the Bid-Rent theory of urban land use	Knox & McCarthy, Ch. 3 & 4
#5 Feb 6	<u>Lecture</u> - Urbanization within Global Context - Midterm review <u>Tutorial</u> Introduction to Part 2 of the term project <u>Tutorial</u> - GUEST SPEAKER: TBA	Cardenas & Kelly, course pack, pp. 109-125 Harris & Keil, course pack, pp. 126-144 Ogunyankin & Buckley, course pack, pp. 144-160
#6 Feb 13	MID-TERM EXAM	
Feb 20	Have a great reading week! ***No Class***	
#6 Feb 27	<u>Lecture</u> - Urban Development Process: “city makers” - Competing interest among development actors <u>Tutorial</u> Introduction to Part 3 of the term project	Knox & McCarthy, Ch. 8
#7 Mar 5	<u>Lecture</u> - Neighbourhood change, residential structure, gentrification, migration and filtering	Lynch & Pottie-Sherman, course pack, pp. 163-179;

Lecture/ Date		Readings
	- GUEST SPEAKER: TBA <u>Tutorial</u> - Help with the term project	Harris, course pack, pp. 180-197
#8 Mar 12	<u>Lecture</u> - Urban Planning – history and contemporary issues of city planning <u>Tutorial</u> - Help with the term project	Knox & McCarthy, Ch. 11
#9 Mar 19	<u>Lecture</u> - Urban development and entrepreneurial policies: re-imaging and re-placing the urban. <u>Tutorial</u> <u>Tutorial</u> - GUEST SPEAKER: TBA	Bain, course pack, pp. 198-211
#10 Mar 26	<u>Lecture</u> - Contemporary Urban Development Issues - Future Planning, Smart Cities, Smart Growth	Various readings
#11 April 2	<u>Lecture</u> - Urban policy and Governance - Course wrap-up - Exam review	Donald & Gray, course pack, pp. 214-227.

9 Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided the Academic Counselling Office and Instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam. For missed exams, you must take your documentation to Academic Counselling within 48 hours of the exam. Otherwise, the instructor will assign a grade of zero. The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

Check Western's new [Policy on Accommodation for Absences](#).

10 Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

11 Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a [Scholastic Offence](#).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the

detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

12 Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available.

13 Medical Issues

For Western's NEW Policy on Accommodation for Illnesses please refer to the Academic Calendar' section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities.

Requesting Academic Consideration

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- (ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- (iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets

(argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;

- **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration is not normally intended for the following circumstances:

- **Students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability.** Students with an ongoing physical illness or mental disorder (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability are responsible, in consultation with their doctors or other health professionals, to determine if they are capable of pursuing their studies and, if so, with what accommodations. Students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability. Students with pre-existing accessibility plans arranged through SAS may not need to provide additional documentation when seeking academic consideration where such request for consideration relates to their disability and where their accessibility plans allow for coursework deferral or deadline extensions.
- **Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance** (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). Students with academic or exam stress should access supports through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

14 Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's Health and Wellness website for more information on mental health resources.

15 Support Services

Student Support Services

Student Development Services

16 Important Dates

January 6: Classes resume

January 14: Last day to add a second term half course

February 17: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 18-23: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

March 7: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty

April 3: Classes end

April 4 and 5: Study days

April 6-26: Examination Period